# crossroad

Story & Art by

SHIOKO MIZUKI

5

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## 5

...THE COVER ILLUSTRATION IS...
THIS TIME...
IT'S JUST A DRESS.
HUH? NO, SILLY.
...A MASQUERADE-THEME?
NOPE, IT'S FETISH.

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SHIOKO MIZUKI

VOLUME 5

go!comi

Translation – Christine Schilling
Adaptation – Mallory Reaves
Lettering & Design – Eva Han
Production Manager - James Dashiell
Editor – Audry Taylor

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e-mail: info@gocomi.com

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## The Story So Far...

Kajitsu, Taro, Natsu and Satsuki are four siblings not tied by blood living together with their step-mother, Rumiko. Kajitsu has loved Natsu since they were kids, and continues to even though she's recently developed a crush on her calligraphy teacher. Natsu decides to go out with his classmate Erica to keep the family from coming apart. Kajitsu doesn't take the news very well, and leaves in tears for Akai-sensei's apartment...

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## Cast of Characters

**Nitta Mano**
Kajitsu's classmate and best friend. Currently dating fellow classmate Tokihito.

**Erica**
A classmate of Natsu's. She has many enemies of the female persuasion.

**Akai-sensei**
The calligraphy teacher at Kajitsu's school. Will his alluring scent trap Kajitsu?

**Natsu**
Kajitsu's younger step-brother, of the same age. He's the valedictorian at school, from which he gets a lot of unwanted attention.

**Kajitsu Toda**
A 16-year old girl who is worried about her naturally gloomy attitude and is striving to make a change in herself.

## Concerning Honorifics

At Go! Comi, we do our best to ensure that our translations read seamlessly in English while respecting the original Japanese language and culture. To this end, the original honorifics (the suffixes found at the end of characters' names) remain intact. In Japan, where politeness and formality are more integrated into every aspect of the language, honorifics give a better understanding of character relationships. They can be used to indicate both respect and affection. Whether a person addresses someone by first name or last name also indicates how close their relationship is.

Here are some of the honorifics you might encounter in reading this book:

-san: This is the most common and neutral of honorifics. The polite way to address someone you're not on close terms with is to use "-san." It's kind of like Mr. or Ms., except you can use "-san" with first names as easily as family names.

-chan: Used for friendly familiarity, mostly applied towards young girls. "-chan" also carries a connotation of cuteness with it, so it is frequently used with nicknames towards both boys and girls (such as "Na-chan" for "Natsu").

-kun: Like "-chan," it's an informal suffix for friends and classmates, only "-kun" is usually associated with boys. It can also be used in a professional environment by someone addressing a subordinate.

-sama: Indicates a great deal of respect or admiration.

Senpai: In school, "senpai" is used to refer to an upperclassman or club leader. It can also be used in the workplace by a new employee to address a mentor or staff member with seniority.

Sensei: Teachers, doctors, writers or any master of a trade are referred to as "sensei." When addressing a manga creator, the polite thing to do is attach "-sensei" to the manga-ka's naroe (as in Mizuki-sensei).

Onii: This is the more casual term for an older brother. Usually you'll see it with an honorific attached, such as "onii-chan."

Onee: The casual term for older sister, it's used like "onii" with honorifics.

[blank]: Not using an honorific when addressing someone indicates that the speaker has permission to speak intimately with the other person. This relationship is usually reserved for close friends and family.

.....
K-LLICK
CREAK
CLATCH
CLATCH
赤Kai
CLATCH
HEY, THERE...
...TODA-SAN.
Inside the Box1

crossroad

SENSEI...

WHEN HE TOLD ME HE WAS GOING OUT WITH HER...
...I SAID I DIDN'T WANT HIM TO. BUT HE STILL IS!
IF HE GOES OUT WITH HER, HE'LL FORGET ALL ABOUT ME!
WHAT DO I DO? NATSU'S LEAVING ME...
NATSU FOUND A GIRL-FRIEND...

★ Hey there. How's everyone doing? This is Mizuki, and this is crossroad volume 5! Talk about fast! I can hardly believe the series has been going on for two years now. I'm so happy I could release up to volume 5, and it's all thanks to the wonderful support of my readers. Thank you all so very, very much!!!

★ I wasn't left with a lot of bonus pages in this volume, either, so I tried to write as much of the manga as I could. I really had a fun time with it, so I'm glad it worked out. Ooh, but look how messy my handwriting still is.. Try and make your way through it and enjoy the book! Don't give up! (ha-ai)

I CAN'T BREATHE...
...SENSEI
HELP ME.

WHAT'S THIS.
...THIS ACHING?
IT FEELS LIKE SOMETHING'S SQUEEZING ME INSIDE
IT HURTS... IT HURTS SO MUCH.
WHY DOES EVERYONE...
...ALWAYS LEAVE!?

UWAAAAH!!
UH...
UH...
UH...
WAAAH
WAAAH
WHAT IS IT NOW?
OH, S-S-SENSEI!
YOU'RE...
WAAAAH!

SHUT
MM...

I'M SO SORRY, SENSEI...
...THAT YOU HAVE TO KEEP TAKING CARE OF ME.
SILENCE
OOPS SORRY.
Passed out.
BUT THERE'S JUST SOMETHING ABOUT YOU...
...THAT MAKES ME FEEL SO NOSTALGIC.

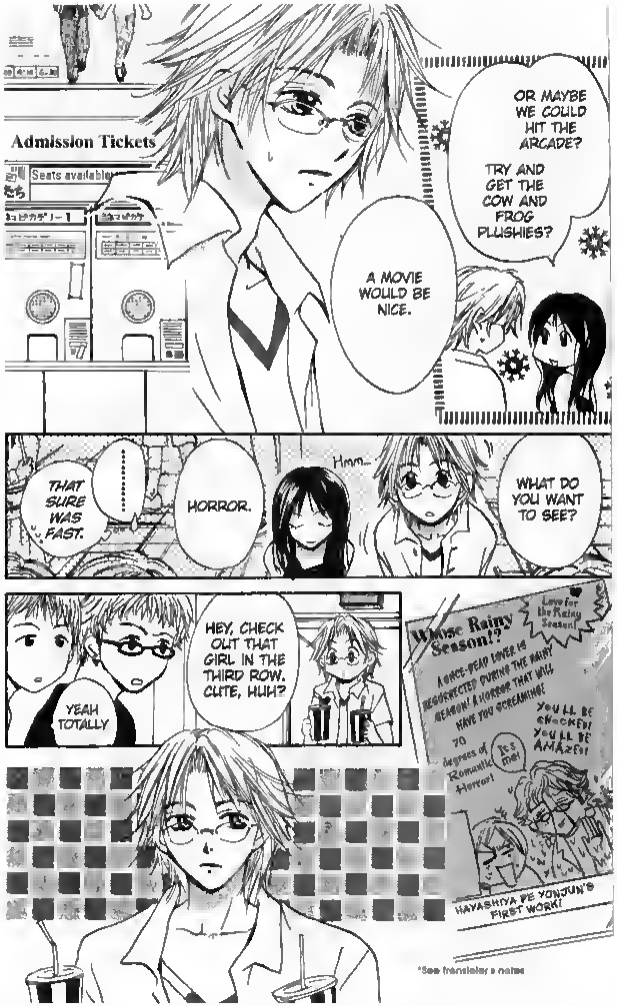
Y-YOU'RE SO...
...NICE TO M-ME!
I'm gonna get reported!
AND QUIT YELLING ALREADY!
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT. I'LL BE AS NICE AS YOU WANT, JUST STOP CRYING!
SNOOP
IS THAT A BAD THING?
AREN'T I ALWAYS NICE?
UPH!
Pff!
"UG-HUH"?
UGHUH... UGHMPH!
SQUEEZE
UG-HUH...
UG-HUH...

I WONDER WHY...

.....
YOU PLANNING ON GOING TO MUSIC SCHOOL?
OH, NO. I'M NOT THAT SERIOUS ABOUT IT
IT'S JUST FOR FUN
I CAME BECAUSE YOU DON'T HAVE A CELL PHONE
IS THAT ALL RIGHT?
I ONLY SEE YOU...
...IN SCHOOL
ARE YOU FREE RIGHT NOW?
WANNA CATCH A MOVIE?

HAYAMI-SAN TOLD ME.
I'M SURPRISED TO SEE YOU HERE.
HOW DID YOU KNOW WHERE I WAS?
...TOLD YOU?
HAYAMI...
HA HA HA
VERY GRUDGINGLY, BUT YES
GRUMBL
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU PLAYED THE PIANO.
YUP. I'VE BEEN GOING HERE SINCE I WAS A KID.
IT'S BEEN ALMOST TEN YEARS.

She stands out anywhere.
STARE
ACHOO!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.
IT'S JUST AN ITCH.
SNIFFLE
OH... THANKS.
Achoo!


Admission Tickets
Seats available
OR MAYBE WE COULD HIT THE ARCADE?
TRY AND GET THE COW AND FROG PLUSHIES?
A MOVIE WOULD BE NICE.
THAT SURE WAS ...FAST.
HORROR.
Hmm...
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SEE?
YEAH TOTALLY
HEY, CHECK OUT THAT GIRL IN THE THIRD ROW. CUTE, HUH?
Whose Rainy Season!?
Love for the Rainy Season!
A FACE-PEAH LOVER IS RESURRECTED DURING THE RAINY SEASON! A HORROR THAT WILL HAVE YOU SCREAMING!
70 degrees of Romantic Horror!
It's me!
YOU'LL BE SHOCKED! YOU'LL BE AMAZED!!
HAYASHIYA PE YONJUN'S FIRST WORK!
*See translator's notes

...HAVE A FIGHT OR SOMETHING?
DID YOU GUYS. .
HERE.
.....
RUMMAGE
I'M SORRY IF I GOT IT WRONG
IT LOOKED LIKE THE SAME ONE YOU HAD ON YOUR CELL PHONE, SO I BOUGHT IT.
IT'S THE LEAST I COULD DO, SINCE I COULDN'T AFFORD A NEW PHONE

I DON'T LIKE THIS!
I DON'T LIKE YOU GOING OUT WITH SOMEONE ELSE!
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH...
...I WAS A LITTLE BUMMED TODAY.
...YOU SAID YOU'D BE WALKING HOME WITH YOUR SISTER AGAIN.
BECAUSE RIGHT AFTER YOU FINISHED YOUR TEST...
BUT YOU CAME TO SEE ME SO I GUESS IT'S ALL RIGHT

I'LL TRY TO BE A GOOD BOYFRIEND...
FOR YOU, ERICA
AT LEAST UNTIL YOU GET TIRED OF ME

IT MUST BE A PAIN GOING OUT WITH A GIRL YOU DON'T EVEN LIKE, HUH?
I WONDER HOW MUCH TIME YOU SPENT LOOKING.
YOU'VE GOT A GOOD MEMORY.
YOU ONLY SAW IT FOR A SECOND, AND YOU FOUND ONE THAT MATCHES PERFECTLY.
AT FIRST...
...I'LL REALLY MAKE AN EFFORT.
I JUST WENT ALONG WITH IT.
BUT NOW THAT I'VE DECIDED I WANT TO...

OF COURSE I'M NOT SERIOUS.
I COULD'VE ASKED HIM TO WALK ME ALL THE WAY TO MY PLACE.
Giggle
Giggle
Its just habit not to by now
°O WOW
IT'S NOTHING SERIOUS
THIS IS RIDICULOUS
TOSS
WHAT ON EARTH AM I DOING?

SEE YOU LATER.
GIVE ME A CALL WHEN YOU GET HOME.
I DON'T WANT TO WORRY.
THIS IS FAR ENOUGH. MY PLACE IS JUST AT THE TOP OF THESE STAIRS.
THANKS.
SURE THING.
GOOD NIGHT.

KUH-CLACK
KUH-CLACK
BLAM
OH.
...I'M SORRY I ACTED LIKE I DIDN'T CARE.
I..
ABOUT EARLIER...
I WAS SO HAPPY...
...WHEN YOU CAME TO SEE ME TODAY.
...PROMISE I'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF HIM.
THANK YOU.

AT LEAST UNTIL...
...YOU GET TIRED OF ME.
DID YOU MAKE IT HOME ALL RIGHT?
YEAH, I'M AT THE STATION NOW.
YUP.
AND I THINK I WON'T BE USING A CELL PHONE FOR A WHILE.

THE TV'S TOO LOUD. I CAN'T SLEEP
.....
SENSEI...
SENSEI!
AAAH! WILL YOU PLEASE SHUT UP!?
Amazing! It's A Goner!
There's the Hurry
And it's pitcher Akawa's another fast ball!
BEEP BEEP BEEP
volume
NUDGE
BUT I'M SLEEEEPY-!
I'M COMPLETELY EXHAUSTED!
WHAT, DO YOU HAVE MOSS GROWING ON YOUR HEART? OR FERNS*?
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S MAKING YOURSELF AT HOME IN MY HOUSE, SO WHO ARE YOU TO TALK?



See translator's notes

AH.
THAT WAS TOTALLY WORTH IT.
Heh Heh
GAAAAAH!
MAPH!
hiff
hiff
OHE
Squeeze
TCK
TREMBLE
TCK
TCK
TREMBLE
STRUGGLE
TCK
TCK
PANIC
EAP
Wheeze
Wheeze
I HAVEN'T EATEN ANYTHING SINCE LUNCH TIME!
DELICIOUS!

No Please Forgive me
She asked for it
MUMBLE
Damn it, why'd I have to-
MUMBLE
KFC
FRIED CHICK-EN!
I WANNA EAT CHICKEN.
I'M HUNGRY!
OOH, SEN-SEI...
NICE, HOT, GREASY FRIED CHICKEN!!
ROH
ROH
Zzz
AND SHE'S ASLEEP AGAIN.

WHEN?
MM, RIGHT AWAY.
WHEN...
..DID YOU FIGURE OUT THE KEY WAS FOR MY HOUSE?
BY THE WAY...
...YOU SEEMED ANGRY..
..AT SCHOOL TODAY.
WHY?
DON'T SAY IT WITH SUCH A CALM FACE! WHERE'S THE DESPERATION?
HOW BORING!
WHERE'S THE CONFUSION, THE PANIC?
HE WAS ANGRY BECAUSE I DIDN'T MAKE A BIG DEAL OUT OF IT?
SPIN
PANIC MODE
Oh, whatever shall I do!?
Wh-what is this?
Could it be sensei? No way!
EITHER WAY, SENSEI..
...THANK YOU FOR BEING THERE FOR ME.

BUT SLEEPING WITH SENSEI IS BETTER THAN DYING.
I DON'T WANT TO GO HOME I'D RATHER JUST DIE.
HEY! I'M SUFFERING FROM HEART-BREAK!
YOU'VE BEEN SLEEPING SINCE LUNCH TIME
MUNCH
MUNCH
KNOCK IT OFF!
TOSS
TOSS
TOSS
YOU MORON! WHO THE HELL WOULD WANNA SLEEP WITH A WIMPY SHRIMP LIKE YOU!?
QUIT WITH THE FRY PELTING!
Eating the same age the same.
MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH
Shut up, you idiot!
Counterattack! Take that!

.....
SPLOTCH
I JUST DON'T GET IT.
WHAT DO YOU LIKE SO MUCH ABOUT IT?
THEY'RE JUST SYM-BOLS.
HAVE YOU FINALLY AWAKENED TO THE POWER OF CALLIGRA-PHY?
TODA-SAN
I'm a good mood.

I DON'T WANT TO GO HOME.
...I DIDN'T EVEN WANT TO BREATHE
...I WAS SO DEPRESSED..
UNTIL A FEW MOMENTS AGO...
Yes sir!
Now eat all the leftovers.
MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE...
...IS TO SEE NATSU.
...THE ONE THING I DON'T WANT...

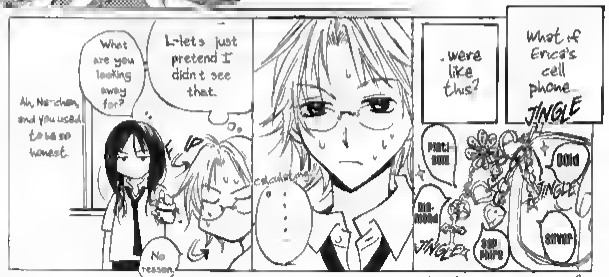
BY THE WAY, TODA-SAN
ARE YOU GOING...
...TO STAY OVER TONIGHT?
HUH?
Oh, right... that.
I'VE ONLY GOT THIS ONE FUTON SO...
ER... UH...
...YOU WANNA SLEEP TOGETHER?

I DON'T SEE THAT AT ALL!
TO ME, THEY'RE LIKE THE NAKED BODIES OF WOMEN.

SENSEI...
HM?
Giggle
YOU REALLY ARE JUST A PERVERT.
IT MAKES ME WANT...
...TO STROKE THEM WITH MY FINGERTIPS

# #23 Inside the Box 2

sneak
sneak
sneak


Ah, Nee-chan, and you used to be so honest.
What are you looking away for?
L-let's just pretend I didn't see that.
No reason
What sort of high schooler is she?
...were like this?
What of Erica's cell phone JINGLE
Pasti-suite
Hello
Hello
JINGLE
Sup Pupu
error

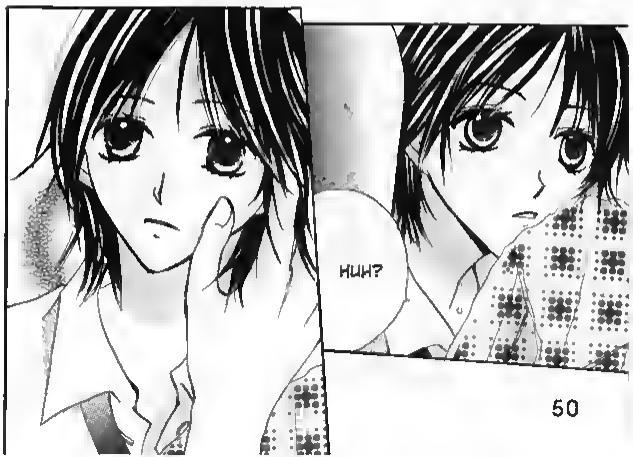
I'LL BE FINE...
...SLEEPING WITH YOU...
...TONIGHT, SENSEI.

HERE.
OH, A MATCHING PINK AND BLUE ONE! HOW CUTE!
WHERE DID HE GET THESE FROM?
RATTLE
I'M SURE I HAD ONE MORE PILLOW.
SENSEI, DO YOU HAVE AN EXTRA TOOTHBRUSH?
YEAH, I THINK TOMA LEFT ONE LAST TIME HE WAS HERE.
A LOVE HOTEL, WHERE ELSE? HE GOES THERE A LOT.
YUCK! EW! GROSS!
THAT'S NOT THE PROB-LEM!
NO, THEY'RE UNUSED.
WATCH YOUR MOUTH
I REAAALLY HATE JOKES LIKE THAT.
SQUISH
ERK!
YOU MEAN YOU AND TOMA WENT TO A LOVE HOTEL TOGETH-

WHILE WE'RE SLEEPING...
GULP
...TRY NOT TO ATTACK ME...
...OKAY?
YOU'RE SAYING THAT TO ME!?
Ya big idiot!

YOU'RE SO CUTE.
SENSEI...
YOU...

TODA-SAN
PTOOIE
GARGLE
GARGLE
GARGLE
WAAAH-
THITH DOETH'NT FEEL VERY ADULT
TIME TO DIRTY YOU UP NOW.
THIS IS PRETTY FUN.
THIS IS PART OF YOUR PASSAGE TO ADULTHOOD
BRUSH
BRUSH
WAAA
BRUSH


HUH?

ANY-WAY...
I WANT YOU...
...TO CALL YOUR HOUSE NOW.
WHAT!
QUIT WHINING.
ARE YOU GONNA LET THEM SEND OUT A SEARCH PARTY...
HEY.
WHAT IS IT?
?
KNOCK KNOCK
HELLO?
SQUEEZE
IF I DIDN'T HAVE SOMEONE TO HOLD ME...

...IF I DIDN'T HAVE SOMEONE TO HOLD ME...
HM?
SQUEEZE
I CAN'T TELL HOW SERIOUS HE IS.
HE MIGHT NOT BE A NICE GUY AT ALL.
BUT NO MATTER WHAT KIND OF PERSON HE IS, RIGHT NOW...
YOU'RE JUST TEASING ME AGAIN...
...AREN'T YOU?
I KNOW HE'S A LIAR AND A TEASE.

OH, IS THAT KAJITSU? WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT SO LATE?
HUH? A FRIEND'S HOUSE? BOY OR GIRL?
UH...A G-GIRL.
I WON'T BE COMING HOME TONIGHT, SO YOU CAN LOCK THE DOORS.
AND...
UH...
HOW'S...
HOW'S NATSU?

FINE...
I'LL JUST TELL THEM I'M STAYING AT MY TEACHER'S HOUSE.
BEEP
BEEP
SHUT UP IF YOU'VE GOT A PROBLEM WITH IT, GO BACK TO THE BARN YOU WERE RAISED IN.
FOR ALWAYS HAVING NO COMMON SENSE FOR ANYTHING ELSE, WHY ARE YOU CHOOSING NOW TO BE AN ADULT?
Take that!
YOU IDIOT!
Here's the phone.
GRUMBLE GRUMBLE
...I HONESTLY THINK HE'S LACKING THE QUALIFICATIONS TO BE A TEACHER
I REALLY LIKE SENSEI, BUT...
THAT'S THE PART YOU LIE ABOUT!
Could you at least answer the phone like a normal person?
WHO'S CALLING?
YALLO YALLO! ♡
YOU'VE REACHED RUN-RUN'S PARTY HOUSE. ♡
RRRR

NORMALLY, KAJITSU WOULD'VE RESPONDED, "WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? IT'S A GIRL, OBVIOUSLY!" AND GET ALL UPSET. ♡
UH?
...I'M 100% SURE SHE'S AT A GUY'S PLACE!
NO DOUBT ABOUT IT! ♡
IT'S DEFINITELY A GUY!
OH, NA-CHAN, YOU REALLY ARE TOO SERIOUS
SHE WOULDN'T DO SOMETHING TO WORRY US LIKE THAT! THERE'S SCHOOL TOMORROW, AND SHE HAS THE LAUNDRY TO DO IN THE MORNING, AND
YOU DON'T THINK KAJITSU WOULD ACTUALLY
CAN'T YOU TRY RELAXING A LITTLE?
NO CAN DO! NOT WHEN IT COMES TO LOVE! ♡
GUFFAW
GUFFAW
YOU'RE A MOM, AREN'T YOU? SHOULDN'T YOU BE WORRYING?

HELLO?
NA-CHAN, IT'S KAJITSU!
THUD DUMP
I'LL PUT HIM ON.
NA-CHAN? WHY, HE'S RIGHT NEXT TO ME!
BEEEEP
BEEEEP
BEEEEP
BUT...
SHE MUST BE AT MANO'S AGAIN.
THAT SHE'D BE STAYING AT A FRIEND'S HOUSE TONIGHT.
WHAT DID SHE SAY?
SHE HUNG UP.

...HAVE SOMEONE TO CLING TO...
RUB
RUB
RUB
IF I DIDN'T...
DON'T CRY.

WHAT...?
A BOY? A GUY?
A MAN?
CHCK
CHCK
CHCK
BUT WHO IS THIS GUY?
IS SHE REALLY SPENDING THE NIGHT WITH HIM?
KAJITSU LIKES SOMEONE?
THEN... WHAT DID EVERYTHING UP UNTIL NOW MEAN?
COME ON, DO YOU THINK SHE'D MAKE UP A LIE AND STAY OVER AT A GUY'S HOUSE IF SHE DIDN'T LIKE HIM?
DOES KAJITSU HAVE SOMEONE SHE LIKES?
NA-CHAN, THIS ISN'T A MATH PROBLEM...
YOU'RE READING WAY TOO MUCH INTO THINGS.
Human computer working hard overtime.
SHIVER
CHCK
SO .. THERE WAS NO REASON FOR ME TO PUSH HER AWAY?

I CAN SMILE, TOO.
I'VE BEEN DOING IT EVER SINCE I WAS A KID
I TOOK ALL OF MY SADNESS AND FRUSTRATION...
UMPH...
...AND I PUT IT IN A BOX.
IT'S STILL MINE... LOCKED UP TIGHT INSIDE ME
.....
VA-LUMP.

RIGHT NOW, NATSU...
...IS SMILING AS THOUGH NOTHING HAPPENED.
HE WENT HOME AND STUDIED AND HAD DINNER WITH EVERYONE..
I don't want this!
I'm going out with Erina I'm sorry
AND AFTER THAT... NATSU WENT HOME.

WHAT ARE YOU, A PILL BUG?
GOOD NIGHT~
ROLL
I'M SORRY. I CAN'T SLEEP.
I'LL JUST BORROW THIS CUSHION AND LAY OVER HERE.
.....
PAT
PAT
COME HERE.
IT'S ALL RIGHT, TODA-SAN.
I WON'T DO ANYTHING.
COME HERE.
IT'S OKAY.

IF IT WOULD ONLY DISAPPEAR..
...INTO THE DARK WHERE IT WOULDN'T HURT ANYMORE.
SENSEI!..

IF IT WOULD JUST SINK...
...INTO THE CALM BENEATH THE WAVES...
PUF

SNIFF!
BZZ~z
BZZ~z
SENSEI ..
I PROMISE I'M NOT ALWAYS SUCH A CRYBABY.

WHOA!
TUG
PAT
SHE'S REALLY HELPLESS
SHOVED IN CORNER
SNIFFLE
SNIFFLE

...HELP ME.
HUH?
HMM..
It's so warm
IT FEELS LIKE SOMETHING'S SQUEEZING ME INSIDE.
I CAN'T BREATHE...
SENSEI...

I WAS A LOT CALMER BEFORE I MET YOU, SENSEI.
IS THAT SO?
I'M NOT REALLY THIS PATHETIC.
REALLY?
I'LL BE OKAY TOMORROW. RIGHT BACK TO MY REGULAR SELF.
I WON'T CAUSE ANY MORE TROUBLE FOR YOU.
I WON'T GET IN YOUR WAY.
SO PLEASE DON'T SAY...
...THAT YOU DON'T WANT ME.

AAH! I DON'T WANNA HEAR IT!
Just look at these blood-shot eyes!
SHUT UP! I'VE BEEN HOLDING IT IN FOR LONG ENOUGH, DAMMIT!
YOU'RE PRACTICALLY BEGGING ME TO JUMP YOU!
IT'S YOUR FAULT FOR STANDING IN MY KITCHEN WHEN I'VE JUST WOKEN UP
YOU... YOU'RE A BEAST!
YAWN
SHIVER
SHIVER
SHIVER
YEAH YEAH
YOU FREE-LOADER!
NOW HURRY UP AND FINISH MAKING BREAKFAST!
I STAYED HERE AGAIN TODAY..
UH...
...SENSEI?
GLANCE
...AND HE CALLED ME A FREELOADER.
UM...
DOES HE MIND?

HUH?
YOU MUST BE A MORE SERIOUS COOK THAN I THOUGHT. I'M SURPRISED. THE EGGS WERE...
SORRY, I WENT THROUGH THE FRIDGE BY MYSELF.
GOOD MORNING!
HEY! ARE YOU SLEEP WALKING OR SOME-THING!?
WAKE THE HELL UP!
NIRRC
NIRRC
DROOL
HOLD IT! WHAT ARE YOU--?

GRIP
S-sorry...
ERK
WOULD YOU RATHER START PAYING RENT FROM NOW ON?

REMEMBER HOW YOU BOUGHT ME LUNCH WHILE I WAS SICK?
OH, THAT? THAT WAS MY TREAT!
GULP GULP
THEN CONSIDER IT PAYMENT FOR TONIGHT'S DINNER.
HAVE FUN
DON'T WORRY, THERE'S NOTHING I WON'T EAT.
GASP

I DON'T HAVE ANYWHERE ELSE TO GO, BUT...
...I'M NOT SURE IT'S ENTIRELY SAFE HERE.
HEE

FORGET ABOUT IT!
SHEESH, IT ALWAYS COMES BACK TO THAT WITH YOU!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I WAS GOING TO ASK!
WANNA SQUEEZE IN A QUICKIE BEFORE WE GO?
Oops, she's upset
LUNCH
Thanks for the meal!
MMM

ONE MORE THING, TODA-SAN.
OH.
CLATCH
SLAM
SENSEI! ARE YOU TRYING TO BUY ME OR SOMETHING!?
WHA!?
HERE. TAKE THIS MONEY.

SMOOCH
SEE YOU LATER, SENSEI! ♡
I'M PERFECTLY CUT OUT TO BE A BOYFRIEND AT THIS AGE.
LOOKS LIKE SHE'S NOT QUITE TRAINED YET
VROOOOM
Humph!
SUR-PRISE!
RATTLE
Toda
BZ
BZ
BZ

I'LL BE TAKING THE TRAIN.
YOU'RE TAKING YOUR CAR, RIGHT?
HOW ABOUT I BRING YOU PART WAY?
EVEN MORE TROUBLE FOR YOU, SENSEI.
THAT'S OKAY. IT'D BE TROUBLE IF SOMEONE SAW US
HE DOESN'T MIND IF I STAY
SENSEI?
NOTHING AT ALL!
N-NOTH-ING!
WHAT?
YES! IT'S ALL RIGHT IF I STAY!

STARE
SLURP
MORNING ASSEMBLY WAS BORING.
SO I SAID I FORGOT SOMETHING AND CAME HOME
I'LL GO BACK SOON.
ACK! SATSUKI!! WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE!?
WHATCHA' DOIN', ONEE-CHAN?

...THE COAST IS CLEAR.
BZZZ
BZZZ
I'M HOME
LOOKS LIKE...

CLATTER
BUMP
HMM...
WHAT ELSE...?
I'D BETTER CHANGE MY UNIFORM, TOO.
Wouldn't want to get in trouble
BETTER GET MY STUFF TOGETHER BEFORE ANYONE SHOWS UP.
I ONLY HAVE ONE CLASS PERIOD TODAY, AND I DON'T EVEN WANT TO GO ANYWAY
SNEAK
SNEAK

I'M SORRY, SATSUKI...
THAT YOU HAVE SUCH A ROTTEN OLDER SISTER.
I'M SO SORRY.
THIS TIME NATSU WON'T BE COMING.
YOU MEAN LIKE WHEN YOU SLEPT OVER AT MANO'S HOUSE THE OTHER NIGHT?
IT'S LIKE A BIG SLEEP-OVER! YEAH!
WILL YOU BE HOME SOON?
SO I DON'T KNOW.
I'M SORRY, IT WON'T BE LIKE LAST TIME.
THAT TIME, NATSU CAME TO TAKE ME HOME.

OOOH?
majestic
I ENVY YOU, SATSUKI. WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE, I WOULDN'T HAVE DARED TO LIE, EVEN ABOUT SOMETHING SO LITTLE...
Blood Type O
Blood Type A
THE MORNING ASSEMBLY'S HELD OUTSIDE IN THE SCHOOL YARD, SO IT'S REALLY ICKY AND HOT! IT'LL BE OKAY IF I GO BACK BEFORE IT'S OVER.
WELL, AREN'T YOU AN IMPUDENT LITTLE KID.
ENJOYING YOUR POPSICLE AND EVERYTHING...
Should I be upset with her?
*See translator's notes
UH... J-JUST GOING OUT FOR A WHILE.
OH!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, ONEE-CHAN?
WHAT'S THAT?
TRIP TO A TRAINING CAMP?
THE CLUB'S GOING ON A TRIP TO A TRAINING CAMP SO I'LL BE STAYING WITH THEM FOR A FEW DAYS.

CLUNK
SOMETHING LOCKED UP...
I FEEL LIKE ..
...THERE'S STILL SOME-THING..
WHAT'S IN THIS BOX AGAIN?
?
SOME-THING'S IN IT...
BUT I CAN'T OPEN IT.
DEEP WITHIN
...I NEED TO TAKE WITH ME
CLATTER
CLATTER
CLATTER
GLUB
GLUB
BUT WHAT..
...WAS IT?
LOCKED UP...
AND SUBMERGED.
BUT WHAT WAS IT?

UPH
WHACK
THAT'S OKAY. I WAS EXPECTING ONE ANYWAY
I've been stabbed
OOOOH
IF I WASN'T, I'D BE REALLY, REALLY DIS-APPOINTED!
THAT'S WHAT NA-CHAN TOLD ME.
OKAY, I'M GOING BACK TO SCHOOL NOW.
HUH.
WHAT IS IT...
THAT I'M FORGET-TING?
EXCEPT ...
WELL, I GUESS I'VE GOT EVERYTHING I NEED..
SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING NATSU WOULD SAY.

#24 Inside the Box 3
IT'S LOCKED, BUT...
WHAT'S... INSIDE THE BOX?
...WHERE DID I PUT...
...THE KEY?

WHAT WAS I SUPPOSED TO DO? SHE WAS ALREADY THERE.
I COULDN'T JUST TURN HER AWAY.
I GUESS THAT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU'D DO.
RIGHT
SORRY, SORRY
OH. YEAH.
DON'T TALK SO LOUD.

Here's everyone's blood type. For those of you who care. I'm blood type A, though I'm often mistaken for type B* Wonder why that is...
AB
A
B
O
A real scrapper
King
Blood Type Edition
Tell Us, Crossroad!

*see translator's notes at back of book

HA HA HA
THAT'S WHAT I LIKE ABOUT YOU.
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
SURE, BUT YOU COULDN'T GET RID OF YOUR LAST GIRL FOR THREE YEARS.
SHUT UP!
You're despicable.
SPEAKING OF NUMBER ONE...
IT'S KINDA CUTE.
...SHE REALLY DOES RESEMBLE A STRAY CAT, HUH?

YOU'RE JUST THE TYPE TO PICK UP ANY STRAY YOU FIND, HUH?
AND TWO DOGS.
SIX.
JUST HOW MANY CATS DO YOU OWN AT YOUR PARENTS' HOUSE?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO PUT IT THAT WAY
SO, YOU PLAN ON OWNING HER FOR A WHILE?
YOUR LAST GIRLFRIEND USED TO TELL ME YOU WERE ALWAYS BRINGING ABANDONED CATS HOME.
IF SHE WANTS TO LEAVE...
...SHE CAN LEAVE.
WHENEVER SHE WANTS.

BUT THAT GLOOMY ATTITUDE OF HERS HAS GOT TO CHANGE
COULD YOU DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT?
YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD...
...AT TRAINING THE WOMEN YOU PICK UP.
.....

SHE REALLY DOES RESEMBLE A STRAY CAT, HUH?
.....
NOT LIKE I COULD TELL HIM THAT.
IT WASN'T JUST DOGS AND CATS AT HOME.
WE ALSO HAD A FEW TURTLES AND HAMSTERS.
Hmm...
...A DOG.
MORE LIKE...
NOT EXACT-LY.
NAH.

UP?
FLOP
HERE.
TH-THANKS...
I PICKED IT UP FROM HOME YOU CAN USE IT.
?
GASP
?
OH! IT'S A FUTON!
DINNER IS ALSO READY AND WAITING, SIR!
YES, SIR!
IS THE BATH READY?
OH!
GOOD

...SURE IS LATE.
SENSEI...
JUMP
He's home!
CLATCH CLATCH
SENSEI! WELCOME HOM—
HUH?
WHY WON'T HE COME HOME ALREADY?
I'M SICK OF WAITING.
WAG
WAG
WAG

HUH?
DRIP DRIP
PUFF PUFF
I WAS IN THE SHOWER. WHY WOULD I BE DRESSED?
WHY AREN'T YOU DRESSED!?
EEK!
CLACK
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, NEW PAJAMAS?
BA
PUFF PUFF
I THINK I S-SAW IT!
PANIC PANIC
A-A-AT LEAST COVER YOURSELF UP!
EWW!
When you're older, you're not embarrassed by stuff like that anymore.
Adults really are different! Natsu would kill me if I saw just his underwear!
Woooah!

MEEE-?
OR... ♡
THIS IS JUST LIKE THE THREE CHOICES OF MARRIED LIFE!
BATH? DINNER?
BLUNT
BATH.
SENSEI!
I'LL LEAVE YOUR NEW PAJAMAS HERE, OKAY?
THEN, IF I'M REALLY BORED AND THERE'S NOTHING ON TV, I'LL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO KILL TIME...
AND THEN DINNER
...VIA YOU!
NOOOO!
DRAG
DRAG
SHE'S SUCH AN IDIOT...

I THINK IT'D BE FUN.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE COUPLES LOOK?
JUST BECAUSE SOMEONE'S NICE TO YOU, YOU BLOW IT COMPLETELY OUT OF PROPORTION!
BLINK
LET'S WEAR THEM!
What's wrong with it? Huh?
YOU THINK I'D ACTUALLY...
...DO SOMETHING THAT RIDICULOUS!?
SENSEI, LET ME IN!
POUND
POUND
POUND
RETURN TO THE ROCK THAT SPAWNED YOU, ALIEN-THING!
YOU DON'T EVEN BELONG ON THIS PLANET!

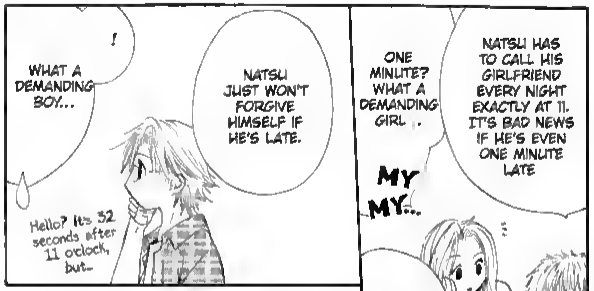
NOTE This is sensei

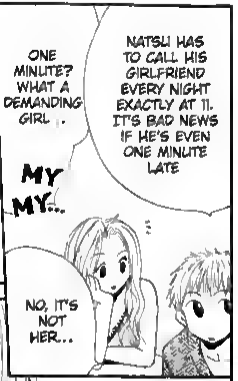
OKAY.
ONEE-CHAN IS AT...
YUP, THERE'S WHERE SHE WENT, ALL RIGHT. YES SIREE
POP
PAL... UH, TRAIN... CA... ER... AMP!
DOES YOUR STOMACH HURT, SATSUKI?
"PAIN"? "CRAMP"?
I DON'T GET IT.

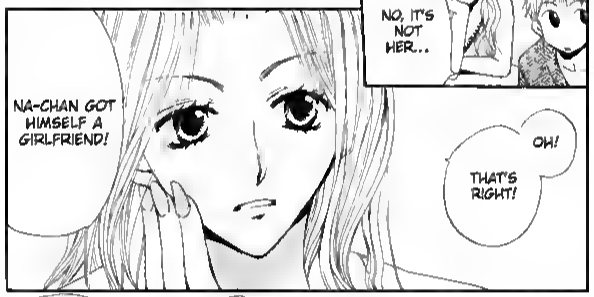
I TAKE IT BACK.
DOUBT
REGRETTED
SORRY FOR DOING THAT WITHOUT ASKING.
SIGH
WHY DO I GET THE FEELING THIS IS STARTING TO BECOME A VICIOUS CYCLE?
C'MON CHEER UP. THERE'S A GOOD GIRL..
I'M NOT ANGRY
SHE REALLY DOES ACT LIKE A DOG.
IT'S NO GOOD.
Mmm...
WAG WAG WAG
STARE
IS HE STILL ANGRY?

I GIVE HER TWO YEARS, TOPS.
THAT'S NOT "SOON" AT ALL!
JEEZ, YOUR PERCEPTION OF TIME IS SCREWED UP!
IF SHE DOESN'T COME HOME...
...I'LL LEAVE.
SO SHE CAN COME BACK.
Kyo-kun's high school doesn't have its own official cheerleading squad, so they're lumped together with the band. Too bad I haven't gotten to include any scenes of Momo-chan during her meets...
Jump over Tokiwa-kun's back! Aw but now it looks like he's looking up her skirt! (ha ha) sorry

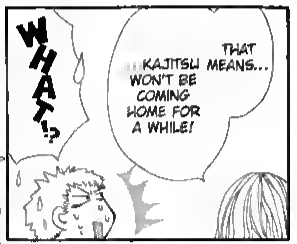
THIS IS MORE ENTERTAINING THAN A GAME SHOW
MAYBE SHE ATE TOO MUCH!
I'M TELLING YOU, IT'S HER STOMACH!
WHAT ELSE ENDS WITH "AMP"?
NOW CAN I GO TO SLEEP?
YAWN
BOO HOO HOO
Answer "Onee-chan is at training camp"
OH, WELL.
AT LEAST SHE DIDN'T LEAVE THE HOUSE WITHOUT TELLING SOMEONE, SO I GUESS IT'S OKAY.
Kyo-kun's cell phone charger
SHE'LL BE BACK SOON
I KNOW SHE WILL
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, TARO.
OF COURSE SHE WILL.
SHE'LL BE HOME BEFORE YOU KNOW IT!

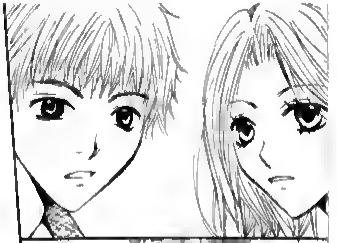

WHAT A DEMANDING BOY...
!
NATSU JUST WON'T FORGIVE HIMSELF IF HE'S LATE.
Hello? It's 32 seconds after 11 o'clock, but...


ONE MINUTE? WHAT A DEMANDING GIRL.
NATSU HAS TO CALL HIS GIRLFRIEND EVERY NIGHT EXACTLY AT 11. IT'S BAD NEWS IF HE'S EVEN ONE MINUTE LATE
MY MY...
NO, IT'S NOT HER...


NA-CHAN GOT HIMSELF A GIRLFRIEND!
OH! THAT'S RIGHT!

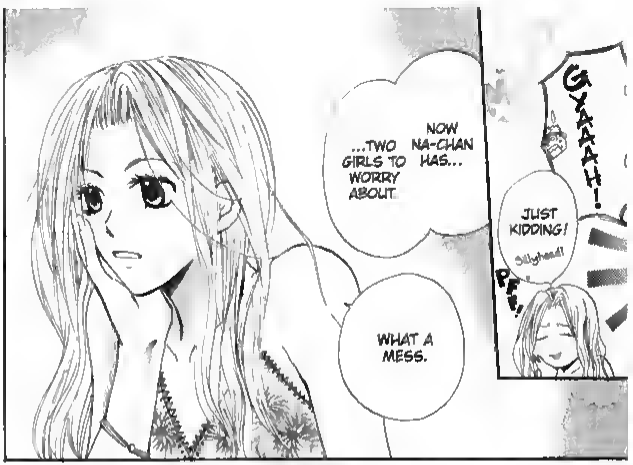
I'D SAY ABOUT 15 YEARS, GIVE OR TAKE.
AND JUST HOW LONG IS "A WHILE"?
THUMP THUMP
THUMP THUMP


WHAT!?
THAT MEANS... KAJITSU WON'T BE COMING HOME FOR A WHILE!



I'M LATE, I'M LATE!
I HAVE TO CALL HER!
STRUGGLING THROUGH YET ANOTHER PROBLEM, I SEE
CLICK CLICK CLICK
HE'S THINKING AGAIN
COO COO
Setsuki wants to sleep in her room!
DASH
WHAT'S ALL THAT ABOUT?
OH NO! IT'S 11 O'CLOCK!
I'M IN TROUBLE!

SEWING, HUH?
WHOA!
YOU HAVE THAT MUCH!?
mountain
YUP.
BUT I'M IMPRESSED, TODA-SAN. THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN'T DO!
I'LL BET YOU'RE THE TYPE TO BUY A NEW SHIRT JUST BECAUSE A BUTTON COMES OFF, RIGHT?
I'VE BEEN DOING THIS KIND OF THING SINCE I WAS A KID
I NEVER HAD MY PARENTS AROUND.
SO MY GRAND-MOTHER...
...TAUGHT ME EVERYTHING I NEEDED TO KNOW.


NOW NA-CHAN HAS...
...TWO GIRLS TO WORRY ABOUT.
WHAT A MESS.
GYAAAH!
JUST KIDDING!
Sighed!
BFF.

I WANT TO FINISH THEM ALL TODAY!
OH, SENSEI! JUST GIVE ME ANY MORE CLOTHES THAT NEED SEWING.

BUT NATSU...
...CAN DO SO MUCH MORE THAN I CAN.
IT'S FUNNY, BUT I KNOW...
ALL I DO IS WORRY AND PANIC WITHOUT SOLVING ANYTHING.
NO MATTER WHAT THE PROBLEM IS, HE'LL ALWAYS COME UP WITH JUST THE RIGHT ANSWER AND MOVE ON.
...THAT NATSU'S ALREADY FIGURED THIS OUT.

TODA-SAN, THIS IS YOUR PROBLEM, SO DON'T GO TRYING TO SOLVE IT WITH WHAT SOMEONE ELSE WOULD DO.
YOU HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO THINK ABOUT IT.
COME UP WITH YOUR OWN ANSWER!
YOU'RE RIGHT.
BY YOURSELF!
AND I'LL BE HERE IF YOU NEED ME
SENSEI...

SUCK THE BLOOD OFF FOR ME! PLEASE?
KISS IT BETTER, SENSEI! ♡
CUBA
CUBA
SUCK!
THAT HURT
VROOOO
TOSHIBO
Super Strong Cleaning Unit
High Power 1200
Strong!!
New!
...AND NOW YOU'RE OVER IT.
SHEESH, ONE MINUTE YOU'RE ALL DEPRESSED ABOUT YOUR BROTHER...
BUT YOU AND NATSU ARE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT!
ER...N-NEVER-MIND..
VROOOO
C'MERE. OKAY...

SENSEI! SENSEI! ♡♡♡
WHAT?
WHAT DO YOU WANT, DAMMIT?
PWUMP
SENSEI~! ♡ ♡
OH, REALLY...?
IN THAT CASE...
SENSEI, I LOVE YOU!
SNUGGLE SNUGGLE
YOINK!
EEEK! NEEDLE! WATCH THE NEEDLE!
...PROVE IT WITH YOUR BODY!
Promise!

OH?
...I'VE GOT SOME CALLIGRAPHY TO DO, SO YOU CAN AMUSE YOURSELF.
I STARTED WORKING ON IT AT MY PARENTS' HOUSE, SO I SHOULD BE DONE SOON.
WELL THEN, TODA-SAN.
I'M SORRY, BUT...
Amazing!
F-FOUR!?
I'VE BEEN DOING THIS SINCE I WAS FOUR YEARS OLD.
NOT REALLY. SHOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM AS LONG AS YOU DON'T START JUMPING AROUND AND YELLING.
SO...I'M NOT IN YOUR WAY?

...I WONDER WHY?
IT IS DIFFERENT, BUT...
I MEAN...
HUH?
HA HA HA...
F-FORGET IT.
ER...

IT'S NOT "TODA-SAN" ANYMORE
SENSEI...
PLEASE CALL ME "KAJITSU."

SO PLEASE DON'T SAY THAT YOU DON'T WANT ME.
I UNDER-STAND.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO KEEP ACTING LIKE YOU'RE SO TOUGH AROUND ME.
I DON'T WANT TO MAKE TROUBLE FOR YOU.
I'LL LEAVE IN A FLASH!
SENSEI... IF I EVER DO GET IN THE WAY, JUST TELL ME.
...AS YOU NEED TO.
YOU CAN STAY HERE... ...AS LONG..

QUIETLY AND SOFTLY, LIKE A MEMORY, I'D FOLLOW HIM.
BESIDE ME WAS SOMEONE I LOVED VERY MUCH
GOOD GIRL...
I LOVED WHEN HE PRAISED ME, AND WHEN HE SPOILED ME.

KAJITSU...
THAT NIGHT...
...I DREAMED...
...I WAS A CHILD AGAIN.

Zz..
Zz..

TO BE SOMETHING PRECIOUS TO HIM.
I TRIED MY BEST TO BE OF USE TO HIM.
I WANTED SO BADLY...
...TO GROW UP.
...KAJITSU.

DADDY...
CLICK

I'VE ALSO HUNG OUT THE LAUNDRY TO DRY.
BREAKFAST IS READY, SO PLEASE EAT!
I HAVE WEEKLY DUTY TODAY, SO I'LL BE LEAVING EARLY
I'LL JUST TAKE OUT THE GARBAGE NOW.
CHAT
CHAT
CHAT
EAT
ALL I NEED TO DO IS...
PAT
PAT
THAT'S THE LAST OF IT...
Is that supposed to be a pun? (ha ha)
...CHULA-SAN WANNABE.
OH, YOU'RE JUST A...
Yuck! I hate spiders!
[DOOOOOOO SHUH!]
SQUIRM
SQUIRM
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
OH!
WELL, HERE YOU ARE!
SQUIRM
SQUIRM
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
CHULA-SAN! WHERE ARE YOU?
Sensei's pet.
Heavy
This one's poisonous, but it's not a threat like Chula-san.
Chula san = Okinawan word for pretty girl

OH!
ALMOST FORGOT ONE MORE THING!
GARBAGE TO SAVE
SENSEI!
ANY MORE BURNABLE GARBAGE TO THROW OUT?
BUZZZZZ
TING
HUH?
WHICH ONE?

...GOOD-BYE KISS?
WHAT ABOUT MY...
WHAT'S WITH THE SUDDEN CHANGE?
?
?
...TODAY!
NOT...
SLAM
KISS

WELL...
I'M OFF!
NO.
ANYTHING ELSE, SIR?
I don't need a napkin, thanks.
TODA-SAN.
QUIT TEASING ME! ♡
NOT THAT AGAIN. ♡
HO HO HO!
WILL YOU MARRY ME?
PUF

BUT HE WALKED AWAY FROM ME THREE DAYS AGO...
I ALWAYS THOUGHT LOSING HIM WOULD BE THE END OF THE WORLD.
I CAN SURVIVE JUST FINE IN A WORLD WITHOUT NATSU.
IT'S BEEN THREE DAYS SINCE I CAME TO STAY WITH SENSEI.
AND I THINK I'M STARTING TO REALIZE...
...AND I DIDN'T DIE.
I ALWAYS THOUGHT IT'D KILL ME.
IT DOESN'T HURT TO BREATHE ANYMORE.
WOW...

...SHE WAS CRYING ALL OVER THE PLACE AND WANTED TO BE SPOILED.
THUD
SHE'S QUITE A STRONG... YOUNG WOMAN.
UP UNTIL YESTER-DAY..
MUNCH
And her cooking is terrific.
Deli-cious!
MUNCH
Deli-cious!
MUNCH

ARE YOU FINISHED WITH EVERY-THING?
YUP. JUST ABOUT
THERE'S STILL THE DAILY PLANNER TO FILL OUT, THOUGH.
I DIDN'T MEAN TO BE LATE!
DING DONG...
DING DONG
ACK! STILL GOT MORNING PRACTICE!
OH, THEN I'LL DO.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. I'LL DO IT. YOU GO TO YOUR PRACTICE.
IT'S ENOUGH THAT YOU EVEN SHOWED UP.
THANKS, TODA-SAN!
I owe ya' one!
NO PROB-LEM
HAVE FUN AT PRACTICE.
PAT PAT

AND SUDDENLY I DON'T THINK THE SKY...
IT'S GOING TO BE NICE AND WARM TODAY!
...HAS EVER LOOKED QUITE SO BLUE.
PAT
PAT
PAT
RATTLE
SORRY!

ERK
WH..
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
YOU'VE REALLY...
...CHANGED RECENTLY.
STARE
O-OH, REALLY? UH, COULD YOU BACK U UP?
I DUNNO. I GUESS IT'S BECAUSE YOU CHANGED YOUR HAIR.
BOING

HUH?
TODA...
Where with this thing?
UH-OH! IS TSUSHIMA ATTACKING TODA?
...DO YOU HAVE A BOYFRIEND?

PAT
PAT
PAT
PAT

HEY...

WHAT!? KAJITSU-CHAN! YOU MEAN ..
YOU'RE STAYING AT AKAI-SENSEI'S HOUSE!?
JUST WHAT SORT OF RELATIONSHIP ARE YOU TWO HAVING!?
MANO-CHAN, PLEASE!
Since 1974
...I...
IF WE'RE FOUND OUT...
YOU CAN'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT THIS!

HA HA HA HA!
QUIT IT, GUYS! IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK!
SORRY, WERE WE INTERRUPTING ANYTHING?
?
HOW DID HE KNOW THAT?
It used to be like this before.
BECAUSE YOU CHANGED YOUR HAIR.
STARE
HAVE I REALLY..
...CHANGED THAT MUCH?

HE JUST UP AND DISAPPEARED ONE DAY.
I WAS ABANDONED BY MY FATHER...
...WHEN I WAS ONLY FIVE YEARS OLD.
HE HELPED ME REMEMBER SOMETHING REALLY IMPORTANT.
BUT YOU KNOW, MANO-CHAN..
...I...
THANKS TO SENSEI..
...I REMEMBERED JUST HOW MUCH...
...MY FATHER LOVED ME!

THADUMP THADUMP
NOW I'M REALLY CURIOUS ABOUT THEIR RELATION-SHIP..
THADUMP
HE'LL STEP ON ME! KICK ME! RUN ME OVER! THROW ME OUT THE WINDOW! OUT INTO..INTO OUTER SPACE!
I'M GONNA GET IT SO BAD FROM SENSEI!
BUT, SENSEI...
...REALLY SAVED ME.
HE SAVED YOU?

I REMEMBERED WHAT IT FELT LIKE TO BE LOVED.
...I HAD NEVER REALLY FORGOTTEN HIM AT ALL..
THAT'S WHEN I REALIZED...
...THAT MADE ME SO HAPPY AND REMINISCENT.
Yessir!
Bath

I'D TRIED SO HARD NOT TO THINK ABOUT HIM ALL THIS TIME.
I THOUGHT I WANTED TO FORGET ABOUT HIM.
BUT WHEN I HAD SENSEI TO CLING TO AND CRY TO AND BE SPOILED BY...
OR WHEN HE HELD MY HAND LIKE I WAS A KID..
IT WAS ALL THOSE LITTLE THINGS..

I KNOW I CAN DO THIS!
EVEN IF YOU LEAVE LIKE NATSU DID..
...I KNOW I'D BE OKAY ON MY OWN.
EVEN IF EVERYONE SUDDENLY DISAPPEARED LIKE PAPA DID...
squeeze

I WAS LOVED BY MY DAD.
AND THAT'S ENOUGH FOR ME.
I REMEMBER..
..AND THAT'S REALLY ENOUGH I FEEL SO MUCH MORE ALIVE NOW.
GRIN
MANO-CHAN!
I WAS HAPPY.

THAT'S NOT DADDY.
MANO-CHAN...
NATSU...
DON'T YOU LEAVE, NATSU!
...WOULD NEVER LIE.
YOU LIAR!
THAT'S NOT MY DAD WALKING AWAY.
I DON'T WANT YOU TO!
LIAR!
NATSU WOULD NEVER LEAVE.
THAT DAY I RAN AWAY...
...NATSU WAS STILL AT HOME.
HOW'S HOW'S NATSU?

MANO-CHAN?
NATSU-KUN WOULD NEVER JUST LEAVE YOU BEHIND. EVER!
...I DON'T THINK NATSU-KUN AND YOUR FATHER ARE THE SAME!
I...I DON'T COMPLETELY UNDERSTAND ALL OF THIS, BUT...
YOU NEED TO BELIEVE IN HIM!
YOU HAVE TO, OKAY, KAJITSU-CHAN?

HE WAS WAITING...
...FOR ME TO COME HOME.

PANIC
PANIC
PANIC
DON'T CRY!
KA...
KAJITSU-CHAN!?

HE WAS AT HOME...
...DIDN'T LEAVE.
NATSU...
HELLO?

I COULD HEAR YOU...
...FROM THE TENNIS COURTS.
Hm?
TODA, ARE YOU CRYING?

PLEASE DON'T CRY!
OH NO! OH NO!
HA HA HA
THANK YOU.
BUT I'M REALLY OKAY.
I'M SORRY, MANO-CHAN. I'M REALLY OKAY.

WHAT'S THE MATTER?

THANKS, MANO-CHAN.
I SHOULD'VE TALKED IT OVER WITH YOU EARLIER
IF I HAD THEN...
...MAYBE...
MAYBE...
THAT'S RIGHT.
COME TALK TO ME ABOUT ANYTHING, YOU GOT THAT?
EVEN IF YOU THINK IT'S PATHETIC, OR IF YOU CRY OVER IT. IT'S ALL RIGHT.

YIPE!
CHOMP
DON'T THINK YOU CAN TOUCH ME WHEN-EVER YOU LIKE!
BOY, TODA SURE IS SCARY!
THAT'S WHAT YOU GET FOR PUTTING YOUR HAND OUT TO A WILD ANIMAL.
TODA, IF YOU WANT TO CRY THEN CRY ON THE COURT!
OOOW ..
SHUT UP, BLOCK-HEADS!
C'MON, MANO-CHAN. LET'S GO.
WOW!
NO, SHE'S NOT REALLY LIKE THA—
Hey! Wait up!
YOU IDIOT.
Gorgeous!
WHAT BEAUTIFUL TEETH MARKS...
Let's go.
DEETINGT

HUH?
THE CALLIGRAPHY CLUB. .
THERE SHE IS!
TODA-SAN!
TODA-SAN, IS IT TRUE YOU'RE QUITTING THE CLUB?
HUH?
CHATTER
CHATTER
.. I DIDN'T REALLY HAVE THAT MUCH INTEREST ANYWAY--
BUT..!
CHATTER
AND YOU HAVEN'T EVEN DONE ANYTHING YET, TODA-SAN!
YOU COULD LEARN TO LIKE IT!
WHY DON'T YOU GIVE IT ANOTHER SHOT?
BUT YOU JUST JOINED!

...I HAVE NOTHING GOOD TO SAY?
EVEN IF...
IF YOU DON'T, THEN I'LL FIND SOMETHING GOOD FOR YOU.
I PROM-ISE...
...I'LL FIND IT FOR YOU!

I STILL...
IT'S NOT EVEN CLOSE TO THE END.
...HAVE ONLY JUST BEGUN.
2-A
I...
UH...
SURE ALL RIGHT.
SO?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING AFTER SCHOOL?

...FOR YOU TO QUIT.
IT'S STILL TOO EARLY...
JUST GIVE IT A TRY!
WE CAN TEACH YOU EVERYTHING WE KNOW!
YEAH! YOU HAVEN'T EVEN WRITTEN YET!
TODA-SAN.
IT HASN'T EVEN BEGUN.
...IS NOT THE END OF THE WORLD.
HERE...

I WOULD'VE KNOWN, THOUGH.
HA! WHAT A JOKE!

YOU HAVE THE BALLS TO SAY THAT TO ME...
...BUT LET ME REMIND YOU I'M YOUR GIRLFRIEND
I KNOW IT'S IMPORTANT TO CARE ABOUT YOUR FAMILY, BUT...
...DON'T YOU THINK I DESERVE A LITTLE MORE PRIORITY? YOU LIKE ME, DON'T YOU?
WHAT ARE YOU GETTING AT?

SORRY, I HAVE TO GET HOME TODAY
I'LL WALK YOU HOME FIRST.
YOU MEAN AGAIN TODAY. RIGHT?
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR YOUR SISTER, SHE'S IN THE CLASS-ROOM.
I'LL WAIT LONG ENOUGH FOR YOU TO GET HER.
IF I FORCE HER TO COME HOME, SHE'LL JUST RUN AWAY AGAIN.
AND YET DESPITE THAT, YOU STILL WAIT FOR HER, HUH?
YOU REALLY DO LOVE YOUR SISTER
YES.

...THEN JUST DUMP ME NOW
AND IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT...
...THAN RUNNING AWAY FROM A CHALLENGE.
THERE'S NOTHING I HATE MORE...
I WON'T DUMP YOU.

IT WOULDN'T EVEN HAVE TO BE KAJITSU.
I'D DIE FOR *ANY* MEMBER OF MY FAMILY.
I HOPE YOU CAN FORGIVE ME FOR THIS, BUT...
ON THAT NOTE...
...BECAUSE FAMILY IS MORE IMPORTANT.
YOU WERE THE ONE THAT TOLD ME TO GIVE IT A REST...
...IF I WAS EVER MET WITH A SITUATION WHERE EITHER YOU OR KAJITSU WOULD DIE. .
...I THINK I'D SAVE KAJITSU.

...JEALOUS OF SOMEONE.
HELLO THERE...
...BIG SISTER

...I'VE ALWAYS GOTTEN WHAT I WANTED.
EVER SINCE I WAS A KID...
This ain't a love hotel, guys.
There they go again.
MY PARENTS WOULD BUY ME ANYTHING AND AS FOR SCHOOL AND PIANO LESSONS...
...I COULD DO JUST AS I PLEASED.
I NEVER EVEN HAD TO TRY TO GET A GUY TO LIKE ME.
THAT'S WHY THIS IS THE FIRST TIME...
...I'VE EVER BEEN...

#28 Inside the Box 5

★

Hey. Speaking of which, before the comic began, I went on a trip. But since the comic started, I haven't been able to take a break from it — and at chapter #24, I wrote two new stories before the deadline. That year, I put out two books. Wonder why. As you can expect, I'm exhausted. I'm sure it'll become a good memory...someday. Nah, who am I kidding? (ha ha)

★ Thank you so much for all the wonderful fan-mail! I know I've been getting slower at responding, sorry. Even though there aren't really that many...sorry. But, of course I read every single one of them! They give me the energy to go on! Thank you!

NO FUN AT ALL.
Giggle
BY THE WAY, TODA-KUN
DID YOU EVER THINK THAT MAYBE...
...YOUR SISTER DOESN'T CARE ABOUT YOU AS MUCH AS YOU CARE ABOUT HER?

GRUMBLE GRUMBLE GRUMBLE
HOW CAN SHE ACT SO FORWARD!?
BUT...!
GRUMBLE
GET YOUR MITTS OFF HIM!
WHO DO THEY THINK THEY ARE WITH ALL THE PDA!?
ALTHOUGH, I DON'T REALLY HAVE ANY RIGHT TO GET ANGRY...
ER, NEVER MIND. FARE-WELL.
SHUFFLE
RUNNING AWAY SO SOON?
AND HERE I THOUGHT THERE'D BE A LITTLE MORE FIGHT IN THE GIRL.
HOW BORING...

SNIFFLE
I KNOW THAT YOU DON'T HAVE MUCH EXPERIENCE WITH GIRLS, BUT...
...IT'S A DISGRACE AS YOUR BIG SISTER TO SEE YOU SNAGGED BY HER!
KAJITSU, COOL IT! YOU'RE GOING OVER-BOARD!
.....
Did she just call me a bitch?
SHE'S GOT THE WORST ATTITUDE I'VE EVER SEEN! THE WORST!
WHAT DECEIVED YOU!? HER FACE? HER BODY?
ERICA, I'M SORRY--
UPH!
SHOVE
NOW THINGS HAVE GOTTEN INTER-ESTING.
ERK! KAJITSU! W-WAIT!
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
SNAP
WHAT THE HELL DO YOU SEE IN THIS BITCH!?
HUH?
CALM DOWN AND LISTEN-
NATSU!
TUG

Oh!
IT'S THE HOME-EC TEACHER!
Again!
THE NAME'S TOMA! ♬
PEEK
OH, THIS IS GREAT! ♡
NUMBER ONE'S GOT HERSELF IN A FIGHT! ♡
HA HA HA HA!
IT'S A LITTLE LATE, 'CAUSE I'VE ALREADY GOT MY HANDS ON HIM!
YOU THINK I'M GONNA HAND OVER NATSU TO THE LIKES OF YOU!?
SHUT UP, AND GET OUT OF HERE!
SO, LITTLE BRO, WHAT HAPPENED?
COME ON, LITTLE BRO, SPILL IT!
HISS
SAY WHAT!?
...LET'S SETTLE THIS PEACEFULLY.
Toma-sensei has the answer!
BOTH OF YOU WANT THE LITTLE BROTHER?
IN THAT CASE...

PUT A CORK IN IT, BUTTFACE!
YOU SHUT THE HELL UP!
YOU'VE SURE GOT A BIG MOUTH THINKING YOU CAN SAY WHATEVER YOU LIKE...
...UGLY!
I can't believe this!
Heh heh! Cursing?
GYAAA!
HM?
HOLD IT, YOU TWO!
GET OFF ME!

POKE
...WHILE ATTACKING THEM WITH PINPOINT PRECISION!
POKE POKE POKE
EEK!
QUIT YOUR WEIRD FOREPLAY IN SCHOOL.
HEY.
THEN I'LL BE AS GENTLE I CAN... ...WITH YOUR WOUNDS..
SENSEI, BE MORE GENTLE!
OW OW OW!
It burns!
...I PREFER WOMEN WRESTLING EACH OTHER IN THEIR BATHING SUITS.
IN A MUD-PIT.
RIGHT. BUT FOR ME..
Chicchap
HOW AROUSING.
Chicchap
Chicchap
..HER MANY WOUNDS...
But in any case...
...ARE OOZING FRESH BLOOD.
EWAP
FWAP
All right already
AWAY WITH YOU, VILE OLD MEN!
THUMP

HIS SKIN IS SO BEAUTIFUL...
...THERE SHOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM!
SNEAK
I'LL TAKE HIM.
Calligraphy Room
WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?
I WAS, TRYING TO DO THEM A FAVOR BY PLAYING THE RESPONSIBLE MEDIATOR!
YOU BET THERE IS!
You can't decide that because of his skin!
BOO BOO
Quit moving!
Hey!
AND JUST WHAT WAS RESPONSIBLE ABOUT IT!?

NOT LIKELY.
I SWEAR ONE DAY WE'LL LOOK AT EACH OTHER WITH LOVE AND HOPE IN OUR EYES...!!
Congratulations to the both of you!
SIGH
YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY "IF YOU CATCH AN ANA-CONDA, IT'S STILL JUST A SNAKE!"
NOT THAT I CARE, BUT NOTHING ENDS THAT HAPPILY.
AND THAT STUPID BITCH WILL BE OUT OF THE PICTURE!
DON'T SAY THAT!
SHE'S GOT A SPLIT-PERSONALITY! EVEN IF SHE IS PRETTY, SHE'S STILL MEAN!
GREAT, NOW I'VE JUST CAUSED MORE TROUBLE FOR NATSU.
IT'S OVER.
IN THAT CASE.. IT'S HOPE-LESS.
I GUESS I'M REALLY JUST A BURDEN..

OH NO...
SIGH
I DIDN'T MEAN FOR THIS TO HAPPEN.
I JUST WANTED TO APOLOGIZE TO NATSU.
I WAS GOING TO SAY, "I'M SORRY FOR MAKING YOU WORRY."
AND THEN WE WERE SUPPOSED TO MAKE UP AND LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER
HEY! IT COULD HAPPEN!
GRR
YOU CHEEKY KID!
YOU'VE GOT A THING FOR YOUR LITTLE BROTHER?
WON'T HAPPEN
NO WAY IN HELL
Nope!

CHATTER
TODA-SAN, HOW'D YOU GET ALL THOSE BRUISES?
AND LOOK! TOMA-SENSEI IS HERE AGAIN!
SORRY FOR MAKING YOU WAIT! WE BROUGHT SNACKS!
I HAD A LITTLE...
...FIGHT, THAT'S ALL.
OH MY GOD! I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE THAT SORT OF PERSON!
SHE'S WILDER THAN I THOUGHT!
HOT!
HMPH
WILL YOU LOOK AT THAT..
SINCE WHEN DID THEY ALL GET SO CLOSE?
BEATS ME.
Here, Toda-san, you can use mine.
Mine, too
My math score was horrible!
You got your test back? How did you do?

HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT...
...RIGHT NOW, OF ALL TIMES?
AFTER I'VE WORKED SO HARD TO SPOIL YOU ALL WEEK!
WAAAA!
NOW YOU THINK YOU CAN ACT LIKE A MATURE ADULT IN FRONT OF YOUR BROTHER?
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH!
A MAN'S JEALOUSY IS SUCH A SORRY SIGHT.
AKAI--
3-sorry
I'M SORRY! I SWEAR I'LL COOK A DELICIOUS DINNER TONIGHT, SO PLEASE FORGIVE ME!
FINE. YOU'RE FORGIVEN
ALSO..
...I'M NOT QUITTING THE CLUB
OH!
I'M SORRY, SENSEI!
I ALREADY PROMISED THE CALLIGRAPHY CLUB MEMBERS THAT WE'D GO OUT FOR DINNER TONIGHT.
SO I CAN'T COOK TODAY.

LOOKS LIKE...
...YOU'VE REALLY TAKEN AN INTEREST
IN HER, I MEAN.
BUT HOW LONG DO YOU THINK THIS'LL LAST? SHE'S NOT LIKE A DOG OR CAT.
IT SEEMS LIKE SHE'S FINALLY CALMED DOWN.
YOU THINK SHE'LL BE GOING BACK HOME TODAY?

FORGET IT. YOU WANNA GO OUT DRINKING TONIGHT?
SORRY, I'VE GOT A DATE.
SO WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT DINNER?
WHY DON'T YOU TRY GETTING YOURSELF A GIRL?

I CAN'T RIGHT NOW.
I'VE ALREADY GOT *HER* IN MY ROOM.

Hayami's part of the softball club. Though she's still pretty pale. I haven't been able to write her story at all. I want to write it!
The girl that likes Erica.
Hayami
RATTLE
ERICA!
IS IT TRUE YOU GOT INTO A FIGHT?
ARE YOU HURT?

...FOR FALLING FOR A HIGH SCHOOLER.
THIS IS YOUR OWN FAULT...
Nurse's Office

I CHOSE TO, SO WHAT DOES IT MATTER?
I'M THE ONE WHO STARTED THE FIGHT...
..BETWEEN ME AND HIS SISTER.
WAIT A MIN-UTE...
WHY WOULD YOU..
HAYAMI!
HISS
WELL, DON'T JUST STAND THERE! GO GET HER BAG AND WALK HER HOME!

HAYAMI ..
YOU WERE THERE THE WHOLE TIME, RIGHT? WHY DIDN'T YOU DO SOME-THING!? TODA!
SIGH
YES, IT IS A BIG DEAL! YOU GOT HURT!
COOL IT, HAYAMI! IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL GO BACK TO YOUR CLUB PRACTICE.

SNIFFLE
got a few slaps in the face
hurt
hurt
.....
PLEASE DON'T MAKE UGLY BRUISES ON THEM!
MY PRECIOUS, PRECIOUS LEGS
. . HOW WILL YOU BE ABLE TO PLAY THE PIANO?
IF YOU'VE HURT YOUR FINGERS...
IT'S NOTHING SERIOUS. BUT I GUESS I WAS A LITTLE RECKLESS.
AND YOUR LEGS .

HA~ YA~ MI~!
HURRY UP AND GO! DUNCE! BLOCKHEAD! DIMWIT! OCTOPUS-FACE!
I'LL GO GET HER BAG NOW.
IT'S FINE
BUT ERICAAAA, HE'S THE ONE WHO..
Waaaah!
WHAT?
They're oddly abusive
THOSE TWO SURE HAVE A WEIRD FRIENDSHIP.
I'm sorry!
Stop it!
Yowch!
Waaah!
WHERE ON EARTH IS SHE STAYING?
HMM...
...I DIDN'T GET TO SAY ANYTHING TO KAJITSU.
I GUESS IN THE END...

I'M NOT SERIOUS. I'M JUST HAVING FUN.
I'LL DROP HIM AS SOON AS I GET BORED.
SO QUIT BUGGING ME.
IT'S PATHETIC!
QUIT MAKING SUCH A BIG DEAL OUT OF EVERYTHING!

KEEPING *WHAT* UP?
HOW LONG DO YOU PLAN ON KEEPING THIS UP, ERICA?
YOU LOOK TOTALLY UNCOOL! I JUST DON'T GET WHY YOU'RE DOING THIS!
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU TO GET SO PASSIONATE ABOUT A GUY.
WATCH WHAT YOU SAY.. HAYA-MI
...JUST GO ON AND PLAY YOUR SPORTS.
IF YOU DON'T LIKE SEEING IT...
OH, IS THAT SO?
BONK
Oooh
Ooph!

LISTEN, THAT WAS JUST BECAUSE HAYAMI WAS BEING SUCH A NUISANCE, SO—
YOU MEAN THE FACT THAT YOU'RE ONLY GOING OUT WITH ME...
...TO KILL TIME?
I DON'T CARE
DID YOU...
...HEAR WHAT I SAID?
IT'S NO BIG DEAL.

TODA-KUN...
HERE'S YOUR BAG.
I'LL WALK YOU HOME.

OH, YOUR SHOES.
CAN YOU PUT THEM ON YOURSELF?
DOES YOUR LEG HURT?
.....
IT HURTS
YOU KNOW .
..I WAS THINKING ABOUT IT EARLIER.
THERE'S SOMETHING ..

I'M THE ONE WHO'S BEING EGOTISTICAL HERE.
I ALMOST FELT BAD FOR MAKING YOU GO OUT WITH ME.
I DON'T WANT TO FORCE YOU TO DO ANYTHING.
WHAT ...?
SO...
...TO HEAR THAT IT'S JUST FOR FUN...
...MEANS I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY AS MUCH.

...WE HAVE IN COMMON
SO THAT'S ONE OF THE THINGS...
WELL, YOU'RE MY GIRLFRIEND, RIGHT?
THANKS
YOU'RE SO KIND.
YOU'D EVEN DO THIS FOR ME.

TODA-KUN.
...YOU'RE MISSING...
...I FEEL LIKE I'M ALSO...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS, BUT...
...LACKING SOMETHING.

HEY, SENSEI ISN'T HOME YET..
IF I'D KNOWN HE'D BE OUT SO LATE, I'D HAVE STAYED OUT LONGER.
FUME
FUME
FUME
FUME
I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW QUICKLY WE'VE BECOME FRIENDS!
AWESOME! WE TOOK PHOTOS AND EVERYTHING! ♡
I'LL HAVE TO TAKE SOME WITH MANO-CHAN, TOO! ♡
She gets excited over the strangest things.
stick stick
stick
PUT 'EM UP! PUT 'EM UP!
MY FIRST PURIKURA!* ♡
Took them w/ friends from the college & club.
*See translator's notes at back of book!
I'LL KEEP THESE PICTURES AS SOUVENIERS!
OH! THESE ONES...
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
THAT BOX..
BY TITLE, YES.

IT WAS ALL THE THINGS I WANTED TO FORGET...
ALL THE THINGS THAT SAID HOW MUCH HE LOVED ME
ABOUT MY DAD.
"TO MY BELOVED KAJITSU. PAPA MAY BE GONE, BUT YOU'LL ALWAYS BE HAPPY WITH RUMIKO-MAMA."
HE LEFT ME LETTERS BEFORE HE WENT.
WHERE DID DADDY GO? HE HASN'T COME HOME YET!
"I'M SURE HE WILL ONE DAY."
"PAPA'S GONE, BUT HE'LL ALWAYS LOVE YOU, KAJITSU."
WHY ...?
PAPA'S NOT COMING BACK?

I REMEMBERED WHAT'S INSIDE IT...
I CAN'T OPEN IT BECAUSE I'M MISSING THE KEY
SO I'LL HAVE TO TAKE OFF THE LID BY UNSCREWING THE BACK.
CLACK
CLACK
Tee hee hee...
CLUNK
HAPPY BIRTHDAY
From Papa
Kajitsu's First Year
Happy Birthday
Kajitsu
5 Years Old
From Papa
4th
5

IT MIGHT BE HARD, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO BELIEVE IN YOU
BECAUSE PAPA...
...WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU.
BELIEVE IN HIM.
BUT I COULDN'T COMPLETELY FORGET ABOUT HIM.
BELIEVE IN HIM, KAJITSU-CHAN!
I'LL LOOK INSIDE THE BOX.
...ONE MORE TIME, DAD.

HE DOESN'T LOVE KAJITSU.
PAPA'S NEVER COMING HOME AGAIN
I WON'T WAIT ANY-MORE.
To my beloved Kajitsu
Beloved Kajitsu
"HE'LL COME BACK FOR YOU."
KERPLUNK
PAPA, YOU LIAR...
THUNK

WHAT'S THE MATTER, SENSEI? HEEEEY!
HM?
I'M HOME.
...HAVE WEAKNESSES.
BUT I GUESS EVEN ADULTS ..
I NEVER THOUGHT AN ADULT COULD FEEL ALONE.

JINGLE
YOU THINK...
JINGLE
..SHE'LL BE GOING BACK HOME TODAY?
JINGLE
IT'LL HAPPEN WHEN IT HAPPENS.
IT'LL BE EASIER TO BE ALONE AGAIN.
OH!
MAYBE I SHOULD BRING HOME A CAT FROM MY PARENT'S.
I KNEW IT WAS YOU, SENSEI!
I COULD TELL FROM THE SOUND OF YOUR KEYS!
BECAUSE EVEN NOW..
...I REALIZE JUST HOW MUCH...
...I LOVE YOU, TOO.

SO IT DOESN'T MATTER IF I SAY MINE HEH HEH...
BUT EVERYONE'S GOT THEIR SECRETS, RIGHT?
I OVERWORK MYSELF SO BADLY EVERY DAY AND STAY LATE FOR OVERTIME, SO IT'S EMBARRASSING TO SHOW JUST HOW MUCH.
I JUST LOVE MY FAMILY.
Hmm
Hmm
BFF!
BALD?
SO...
IT'S EMBARRASSING TO SHOW IT, BUT EVERYONE'S GOT THEIR SECRETS, RIGHT?
I WORK MYSELF SO BALD EVERY DAY.
THAT'S WHAT TARO-NII SAID.
Tea

Afterword: Suzuka-sho

This is the last page of the manga! Thank you so much for reading this far!! Special thanks to An-chan, Osamu, Mizushima-san, Kise-san, Tenno-san.

And to everyone that's helped me so much! Thank you for supporting me. Thank you, thank you! I hope we can meet again!

That's all!

PLEASE LETTER

Erica

Go! Media Entertainment
5737 Kanan Rd #591
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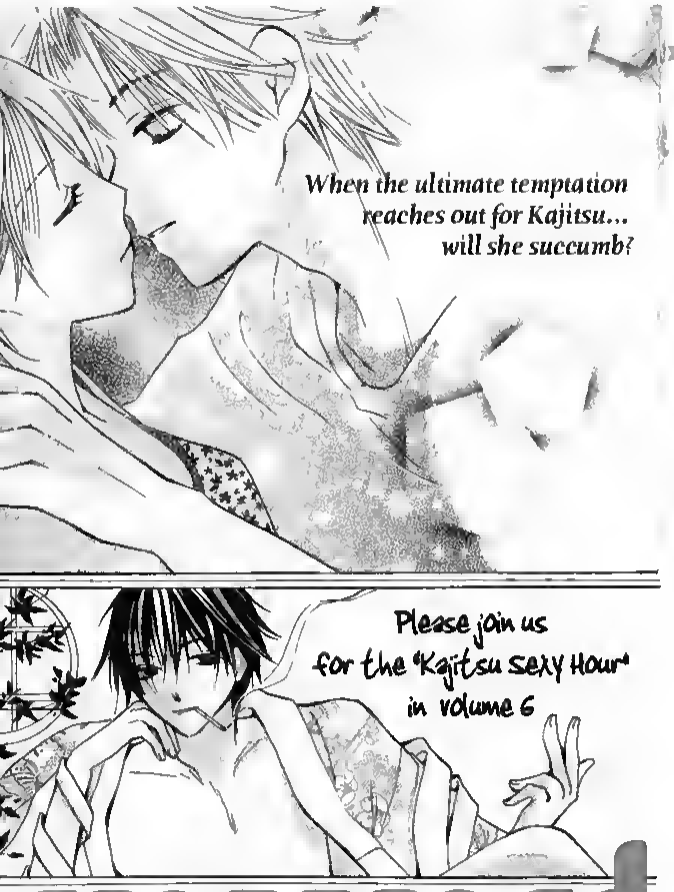
crossroad 5 / end




crossroad

# Translator's Notes

Pg. 24 – The movie poster

Though this is the poster for a horror movie Natsu and Erica are going to watch, it's also a very clever gag on the very popular Korean drama in Japan called "Fuyu no Sonata." Not only is the title "Whose Rainy Season" ("Tsuyu no Donata") a play off of its title but the director's name on the poster is the actual name of the main actor, Pe Yonjun. And the glass-wearing man on the poster is a very recognizable caricature of him.

Pg. 35 – Moss and ferns growing out of your heart

Akai-sensei is referring to the Japanese idiom that if someone has "hair growing on their heart" they're thick-skinned. So because Kajitsu's case is extreme, he's changed the idiom to saying moss and ferns.

Pg. 76 & 83 – Blood types

Just as Westerners will make correlations between one's zodiac or constellation and one's personality, in Japan blood types are thought of as a way to discern one's basic nature and disposition. Type A are stressed, Type B are relaxed, Type O are standard and down-to-earth, and Type AB are unpredictable and therefore called "loose cannons."

Pg. 185 – *Purikura*

Short for "print club" these unique photo booths in Japan take photos of the teenage girls that crowd into them and even give the option of decorating with stamps, text, and doodles before printing them onto convenient sticker sheets.

# crossroad

## Less than siblings, more than friends...

Still reeling from the discovery of Natsu and Erica's relationship, the distraught Kajitsu runs away from home -- straight into the arms of Akai-sensei! As if moving in with her teacher wasn't risky enough, Kajitsu finally loses her temper when Erica continues to challenge Natsu about his feelings for his sister! Can love survive when Kajitsu's secret living arrangement and Erica's interference threaten to tear the fragile Toda family circle apart?

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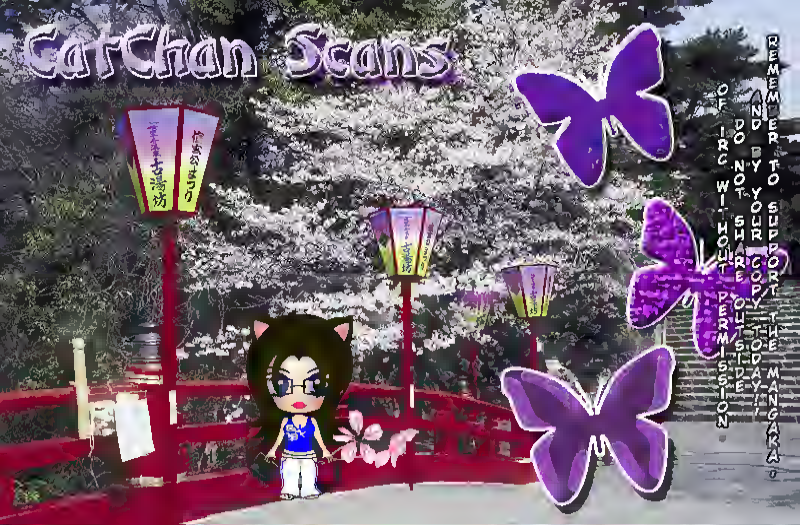
CatChan Scans
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